

Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake (Committee)

Meeting #11

10:00 am-2:00 pm

September 23, 2020

Meeting Summary¹

Attendees:

See Appendix A

Action Items:

1. Committee members will submit feedback on the June 18th Meeting Summary to the CCP facilitation team by Friday, September 26
2. Mr. Sklar will sign the letters supporting continued DWR monitoring of Clear Lake and gap funding for UC Davis research on behalf of the Committee, and the CCP facilitation team will route the letters to Resources
3. CCP will send the Committee the slides from their presentation to the EDC Board and welcomes additional input from Committee members
4. Committee members are invited to send CCP suggestions of groups they would like to receive a presentation about the Committee effort
5. The facilitation team will draft a proposal for an event to inform the general public about the work of the Committee and other partner efforts
6. Participants who would like to review the CRC draft Socioeconomic Report can contact Ms. Austin at braustin@ucdavis.edu, participants who would like to provide input or feedback regarding meaningful work products for Tribal Engagement in the pandemic context can contact Dr. Cannon at cebcannon@ucdavis.edu.
7. CCP staff will update the draft 2020 Recommendations Report based on the Committee's input and send it to the Committee to review
8. Mr. Crandell will further develop his proposal to improve hitch habitat in Clover Creek and draft a proposed budget
9. Ms. Logsdon will send Ms. Sullivan information regarding a past conversation with the Farm Bureau about legacy DDT in Clover Creek, so that Ms. Sullivan can provide any appropriate records to Mr. Crandell for mitigation considerations in the project proposal
10. The Facilitator will inquire with Resources regarding how to approve projects and distribute the Prop 68 funds allocated to the Committee
11. The facilitation team will follow up with individuals who have proposed projects and introduce these ideas in an upcoming Technical Subcommittee meeting to preliminarily vet them

¹ Except as specifically noted, all comments reflected in the summary were derived from Committee Member statements. Where applicable, specific responses are provided to individual comments/questions.

12. Dr. Dodd will invite Megan Sparling, the UC Davis Research Funding Coordinator, to attend the September 24th Technical Subcommittee meeting, to contribute to the discussion of alternative funding sources, and to search for funding opportunities
13. Participants are invited to submit additional ideas for funding sources to the Facilitator at s.magill@csus.edu

Welcome and Introductions

Sam Magill (Facilitator), Sacramento State Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP), opened the eleventh meeting of the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake (Committee), reviewed virtual meeting protocols, and introduced Committee Chair Eric Sklar, President of the California Fish and Game Commission. Mr. Sklar welcomed Committee members and expressed well wishes for participants and their families in these challenging times. He acknowledged the importance of funding to move the Committee effort forward and noted that he would provide an update on the status of funding for the Committee's 2019 recommendations later in the meeting.

Items for Committee Approval

The Facilitator reviewed the meeting summary and action items from the Committee's June 18 meeting. There were no questions or comments on the June summary, and the facilitator asked that Committee members submit any edits to the CCP facilitation team by Friday, September 26th (**Action Item #1**).

The Facilitator introduced two draft letters of support for consideration by the Committee, one for UC Davis research gap funding, and the other for continuing California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Clear Lake water quality sampling. These draft letters are available on the Committee website [here](#).

DWR Water Quality Sampling Support Letter

Sarah Ryan, Big Valley Rancheria, shared that her Tribe has been involved in DWR's monitoring on Clear Lake and supports its continuation. She stated that while there are issues with accessing DWR's public data, it would be very disappointing if the State discontinues funding for what she characterized as an important program. Mike Shaver, Middletown Rancheria, suggested that with the Committee's support for continued monitoring, there should be follow up to improve the ease of access to DWR's data. The

Facilitator shared that the Technical Subcommittee will hold a discussion focused on data management in the near future.

The Committee unanimously approved the letter of support for continuing funding of DWR's monitoring on Clear Lake, with the following edits:

- In the second sentence of the second paragraph, change the language "tribal organization" to "Tribes and other local organizations" because the analysis from the Tribes is happening at a Tribal government level
- Correct the spelling of Mike McGuire and Cecilia Aguiar-Curry's names

UC Davis Research Gap Funding Support Letter

Paul Dodd, UC Davis, spoke about the letter requesting funding for UC Davis research gap funding, saying it would be a shame if so much effort poured into establishing the monitoring protocols, equipment, and deployment of researchers, should be cut short. A lack of continuous monitoring between the end of the current UC Davis contract and the allocation of state funds for the next fiscal year, he said, would create a serious gap in data and perhaps loss of research and talented people.

Geoff Schladow, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC), explained that decommissioning TERC's equipment beginning in May would be financially costly and interfere with the most informative period for Clear Lake research. Bernadette Austin, UC Davis Center for Regional Change (CRC) shared that loss of funding would disrupt staffing and interfere with the cohesive transfer of knowledge on the project.

The Committee unanimously approved the letter of support for UC Davis Gap Funding, with Dr. Dodd abstaining as the UC Davis representative. There were no comments or questions. Mr. Sklar will sign both letters on behalf of the Committee and the CCP facilitation team will route the letters to the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources) (Action Item #2).

2019 Recommendations Funding Update and Committee Discussion

Mr. Sklar provided an update about funding for the Committee's 2019 recommendations. He reminded the Committee that in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the State put a hold on any new funding requests. He and the Facilitator have been in extensive discussion with Resources about alternative funding sources, including grant requests to Resources. He applauded Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry for her continued advocacy for the Committee's recommendations as the legislature discussed the State budget. He said that if funding is not available this funding cycle, the Committee will continue to fight for funding in the next cycle.

Ms. Ryan invited Mr. Sklar to reach out to Big Valley Rancheria if there are opportunities for the Tribe to contribute. Mr. Sklar thanked her and the Facilitator noted that the California Office of Emergency Services distributes a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant that is noncompetitive for Tribes, which might be an opportunity for support from Tribes. Ms. Ryan asked that the Committee, in selecting and applying to grants, maintain awareness that some grants cannot be awarded to or worked on by Tribes, and that the Committee avoid those sources when possible, or at least diversify funding

streams. The Facilitator thanked Ms. Ryan for her comment, and invited participants to join the Technical Subcommittee the following day for a discussion about funding sources.

Local and Committee Member Updates

Wilda Shock, Lake County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), described an informational presentation that Mr. Sklar and the facilitation team provided about the Committee to the EDC Board of Directors at their most recent meeting. This followed an August presentation by the CRC about their research, giving the EDC Board a holistic understanding of the parallel efforts taking place to improve the lake and its surrounding areas. Ms. Shock encouraged other groups to request similar presentations to foster community understanding of the Committee effort and related projects. She noted that broader knowledge of the effort would increase access to alternative funding sources for the recommendations.

The presentation to the EDC Board included information on Assembly Bill 707 and the formation of the Committee, the annual process for the Committee, and the 2019 Recommendations. CCP will send the Committee the slides from their presentation to the EDC Board and welcomes additional input from Committee members (Action Item #3). The Facilitator asked the Committee to suggest other groups they would like to receive a presentation about the Committee effort (Action Item #4) and noted that members of the public had previously recommended the local Chambers of Commerce and the Redbud Audubon Society. Ms. Austin offered that CRC is also willing to provide a presentation to local groups.

The Facilitator noted that the idea of a broader public outreach event has been posed in a number of venues. He asked the Committee for opinions on hosting such an event and whether a virtual event would provide access to harder to reach communities. Several Committee members voiced support for the idea, providing the following comments:

- It is important for the public to understand the work going into this, to have the opportunity to ask questions about the process, and provide input. The County Supervisors receive many emails from residents concerned about the lake in towns such as Upper Lake, Lakeport, and Kelseyville.
- This information is especially important for hard to reach residents such as Tribal and Hispanic communities
- A virtual event is not preferable for real-time participation, but a live recorded event that can be shared is a really beneficial educational opportunity during the pandemic
- Many Tribal groups are already meeting virtually

Hearing general support, the facilitation team will draft a proposal for an event to inform the general public about the work of the Committee and other partner efforts (**Action Item #5**).

Continuing with local updates, Ms. Shock shared that the City of Lakeport secured \$5.9 million from Proposition (Prop) 68 funds for acquisition of property to build a lakefront park. The project is proceeding rapidly and is part of the Lakeport Lakefront Revitalization Plan.

Ms. Ryan provided an update from the Cyanobacteria Task Force on current cyanotoxin conditions in Clear Lake, that information can be found on Big Valley's website, [here](#). She noted that most sampling locations are at a cautionary level, and the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has posted "Caution" and "Warning" signs in these areas. Presence of both liver toxins, skin toxins, and neuro toxins have been detected in the lake this summer. The cyanobacteria sampling program will continue sampling twice per month until the blooms die down and are collaborating with DWR and UC Davis.

UC Davis Research Updates

CRC Updates

Ms. Austin provided an update on the CRC's research in Socioeconomic Analysis, Economic Development, and Tribal Engagement. CRC's Socioeconomic Report is substantially complete, they are reviewing to ensure that their data aligns with the lived experience of Clear Lake community members as local experts. Regarding an action item from the June Committee meeting that stated "[CRC] will update its map of Clear Lake communities to include all tribal lands," Ms. Austin noted that they were not able to update their maps, but they have acknowledged in the report that their work needs to be informed by the knowledge of Tribal partners. Participants who would like to review the draft Socioeconomic Report can contact Ms. Austin at braustin@ucdavis.edu (**Action Item #6**).

Regarding the Economic Development component of CRC's research, Ms. Austin shared that they hope to make recommendations for local agencies to implement. If there is not funding to implement these recommendations, CRC wants to ensure that their work products will be usable by locals. These potential work products include a compilation of existing research on local communities, promising practices, and a compendium of best practices in recovering from natural disasters and climate change. The CRC will conduct focus groups for feedback on these work products, the first of which will engage the Committee's Socioeconomic Subcommittee. Jonathan London, CRC, added that the Tribal components of Economic Development will be better emphasized in the final products.

Mr. Shaver asked about a bullet under "Best Practices in Amenity-Driven Economies" slide that read:

At a minimum, aim for a 'no-harm' bottom line, making sure the worst-off members of the community do not experience a further deterioration of their standard of living. A more progressive goal is making sure everyone in the community can obtain basic needs.

Mr. Shaver asked if the goal of the no-harm bottom line is to limit socioeconomic impacts to local communities, and how that could be done. He asked if a solution would be to adjust management practices to not interfere with socioeconomic, or seek funding to help with impacts outside economic entities. Dr. London acknowledged that the purpose of the Socioeconomic Subcommittee is to ensure that water quality management practices do not have negative socioeconomic impacts, and that the best practices describe how the socioeconomic impacts ought to be considered. He acknowledged that funding is a dilemma, and that there are a number of considerations to go into a socioeconomic

investment strategy, such as job training for ecological restoration. He acknowledged that this needs to be an additive and investment-based strategy and not a restrictive strategy.

Potential outcomes for CRC's Tribal Engagement work include looking at promising practices for educational opportunities and decision making, best practices in community development recovery strategies from disasters, and a guide to potential resources for Tribes at UC Davis and throughout the University of California system. Clare Cannon, CRC, invited participants to provide general feedback and input as to what meaningful work products would be for Tribal Engagement in the pandemic context (see Action Item 6). Dr. Cannon can be reached at cebcannon@ucdavis.edu. CRC's Tribal Engagement survey can be found [here](#).

By the December 2020 Committee meeting, CRC will do the following:

- Share final report on socioeconomic demographics
- Share a summary report on promising practices in community economic development
- Continue to compile best practices in disaster recovery
- Update resource list based on feedback from Tribal partners

CRC's presentation can be found on the Committee website, and Ms. Austin invited participants to reach out to her at braustin@ucdavis.edu.

TERC Updates

Dr. Schladow explained logistical challenges of working on Clear Lake during COVID-19. He described TERC's main accomplishments to date in 2020, which include the following:

- Developed a prediction tool for low levels of dissolved oxygen (hypoxia)
- Took two rounds of nutrient flux measurements from the sediments
- Collaborated with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) on tailoring Hazardous Algal Bloom (HAB) remote sensing tool for Clear Lake
- Received a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Fellowship for the detection of cyanobacteria in Clear Lake
- Examined the impact of hypoxia on fish habitat in Clear Lake
- Collected high-resolution data for streams, meteorology, and lake
- Studied Lake Biogeochemistry including nutrients and phytoplankton
- Collaborated with USGS to measure a surrogate for mercury
- Developed a public data portal
- Conducted numerical modeling and calibration to simulate particle transport.

TERC's data is publicly available here: <https://terc-clearlake.wixsite.com/cldashboard/file-share>.

Committee members asked the following questions:

- Are you starting the predictive modeling and warning system for HABs in Clear Lake, or just in Lake Tahoe?

Reply from Dr. Schladow: We are trying to do them both at the same time.

- Where is the experiment with SePRO Corporation to lock in phosphorous being conducted?

Reply from Dr. Schladow: In the lab we are removing the oxygen from the water above core samples and measuring the rate of phosphorous release. They want to add their Phoslock product to that. We are providing the core and SePRO are doing the analysis.

Subcommittee Updates

The Facilitator shared that the Technical Subcommittee has continued discussion about implementing the 2019 recommendations, with a particular focus on modeling and watershed monitoring. The September 24th Technical Subcommittee meeting would include a brainstorm of funding options for the 2019 Recommendations.

As a chair for the Technical Subcommittee, Ms. Ryan shared that the implementation of the targeted modeling and monitoring recommendations will make available completely new and invaluable information about nutrient loading into Clear Lake. This information can put to rest speculation about sources for nutrient loading, and help direct lake management move forward. Ms. Kennedy, the other subcommittee chair, agreed.

Ms. Carrillo-Mandel updated the Committee on the progress of the first Socioeconomic Subcommittee meeting. The meeting was informational about the Committee effort and CRC's research, and included a brainstorm discussion about collaboration opportunities with existing local efforts. She characterized the subcommittee membership as a diverse group of knowledgeable people. Subcommittee chairs Ms. Shock and Terre Logsdon, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, concurred.

2020 Annual Report: Committee Recommendations and Next Steps

2020 Recommendations

The Facilitator asked the Committee to confirm whether the primary focus for the 2020 Report should be on securing funding for the 2019 Recommendations. He asked if those approved Recommendations are still a high priority, and if the Committee should consider other recommendations.

The recommendations, with their individual cost estimates are:

- Distributed model of the upper watershed: \$1.5 million for completion over time
- Basin-wide monitoring strategy: \$775,000 for the starting year
- Bathymetric survey: \$400,000 one-time cost
- Review existing best management practices: \$60,000 for a review
- Public Perception survey: \$120,000

The 2019 budget request included an additional \$2.5 million to fund continuation of UC Davis research for another three years. Another \$200,000 was included to fund a deferred 2019 recommendation for database reconciliation and data analysis. At the end of 2019, the Committee expected to fund the full suite of recommendations through a single State appropriation, but as a result of COVID funding

restrictions, no funding was allocated. It is yet to be seen if the recommendations will be funded by the state in 2020, in full or in part.

The Committee was supportive of the existing recommendations and recognized the first three recommendations are intricately connected and generally higher priority than the last two. Members provided the following comments:

- These recommendations were all well thought through and should continue to be advanced.
- The basin-wide monitoring strategy is higher priority than developing a distributed model because the monitoring results are still useful without the model, but the model is not useful without the monitoring. The model becomes more valuable the more monitoring data can be entered.
- The bathymetric survey might be the highest priority, because it will improve or ensure the accuracy of the in-lake model that TERC is developing currently.
- These recommendations are all important, but funding to reinstate DWR sampling and continue the TERC research should be highest priority.
- A foundation might be interested in funding a public perception survey.
- It is important to be clear about the order of Committee priorities in case different amounts of funding become available at different times.
- Collection of data that is likely to change more over time should be prioritized over data that will change more gradually, such as lake depth.

CCP staff will update the draft 2020 Recommendations Report based on input from this discussion and send it to the Committee to review (Action Item #7). The Committee will make their final decision on the 2020 Recommendations in December.

Projects for Committee Prop 68 Funds

The Committee discussed potential shovel-ready projects to which they could allocate a portion of the \$5 million in Proposition 68 funds granted to the Committee at its formation.

Eddie Crandell, Lake County Board of Supervisors, presented a proposal to revitalize Clear Lake hitch habitat in Clover Creek. The proposal was introduced to him by Paul Cole of Upper Lake, suggested clearing debris and sediment from a section of Clover Creek, restructuring a channel built by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and improving fish gates that are currently not usable by the hitch. This project would improve flood drainage, facilitate future maintenance, and improve passage for the hitch to spawn upstream. The project must entail community outreach and engagement. It is supported by the Middle Creek Restoration Project Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Crandell expects the budget for the project will be no more than \$1.5 million. He will further develop the proposal and a budget (Action Item #8).

Committee members were generally supportive and provided the following comments:

- Removal of sediment and gravel from the streambed may cause release of legacy Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) into the creek. This would need to be mitigated in the project plan.

- The conservation strategy plan being written by federal and state fish agencies will support the need for this project. That conservation plan seeks a federal endangered species listing for the hitch.
- The Committee's focus has mostly been on water quality improvement and this is an opportunity to collaborate with local wildlife efforts. Ben Ewing with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Fish and Wildlife) would be a person to coordinate with.

Ms. Logsdon will send Brenna Sullivan, Lake County Farm Bureau, information regarding a past conversation with the Farm Bureau about legacy DDT in Clover Creek, so that Ms. Sullivan can provide the appropriate records to Mr. Crandell for mitigation considerations in the project proposal (Action Item #9).

Ms. Ryan described another project to improve the fish ladder on the Main Street bridge over Kelsey Creek. This project entails restoration and improvement of stream banks and improving the footings of the Main Street Bridge. Elem Indian Colony funded the full planning of the project, Big Valley Rancheria has applied for a grant from Fish and Wildlife to fund the permitting, and the Committee's Prop 68 funds may be able to pay for implementation. The project will decrease sediment loading and improve the hitch access to their spawning habitat.

The Facilitator shared that Angela DePalma-Dow, Lake County Water Resources Department (WRD) previously proposed a tule replanting facility to improve water quality in a recent Technical Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Ryan noted that there is a list of shovel-ready projects submitted to DWR's Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) program, if the Committee would like to seek out such projects.

The Facilitator will inquire with Resources for guidance regarding how to approve projects and distribute the Prop 68 funds allocated to the Committee (Action Item #10). The facilitation team will follow up with individuals who have proposed projects and introduce the ideas in an upcoming Technical Subcommittee meeting to preliminarily vet them (Action Item #11). Ms. Ryan proposed that some projects could be approved before the end of the year and included in the Annual Report.

Alternative Funding Sources Brainstorm

The Committee participated in a brainstorm about alternative sources to fund the 2019 Recommendations in the absence of State funding. Paul Dodd offered to invite Megan Sparling, the UC Davis Research Funding Coordinator, to attend the next day's Technical Subcommittee meeting continuing the discussion of alternative funding sources, and to search for potential funding options using the University's normal methods (Action Item #12).

The results of the brainstorm are the following:

- National Science Foundation (NSF) programs fund community and citizen science on environmental monitoring, though they are currently out of cycle
- Perhaps we can coordinate with federal agencies working towards similar ends
- US Geological Survey (USGS) will contribute to the bathymetric survey if we are able to conduct it

- USGS and Bureau of Land Management are collaborating on data collection on Scotts Creek that will likely be available as part of a monitoring plan
- Tribes can leverage a close relationship with federal entities that are mandated to support Tribal resources
- DWR's IRWM program provides funding for watershed-wide projects

Participants are invited to submit additional ideas for funding sources to the facilitator at s.magill@csus.edu (Action Item #13).

Public Comment

The Facilitator opened the floor to public comments. Keith Ahart, Golden State Water Company, shared that the Watershed Sanitary Survey is another source for projects ideas for Prop 68 funding.

Anne Riggs provided two comments bulleted below:

- I would ask that the committee stay mindful of county-wide equity issues when determining which capital projects to invest in - these two creek restoration projects both sound very worthwhile and beneficial, and I'm sure they are integral to the overall watershed and lake health, but they are both located on the north/west shores of the lake, and I recommend mindfulness of how investment in ecological restoration benefits communities all around the lake, especially the south and east where the negative impacts of lake water quality issues are exacerbated.

Mr. Shaver thanked Ms. Riggs for her comment and replied that once lake modeling results are available, it will be important to prioritize water quality management in areas of most impact, such as the Anderson Marsh area at the outflow of the lake. He noted several water quality improvement projects on the south and east ends of the lake that were not well advertised, and acknowledged that the Committee public assessment Recommendation might help the Committee to address some of these public knowledge gaps.

- Thank you to everyone on the Committee, I'm from Lake County and recently returned. I have a background in community development. I see the big picture idea that there is a lot of technical information and a number of efforts underway. There is power in communicating values and an incredible story to be told in Lake County, from the leadership of the Tribes to the assets that CRC described. Finding a way to create and communicate the story of Lake County could build political capital and increase communication to potential funders. I would like to be involved in that.

Mr. Crandell acknowledged the experience and expertise of everyone in the room and thanked them for participating and making decisions for improvement of the lake. The Facilitator noted there are great opportunities for the Committee to move forward, and adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURN

Committee Members Present			
First	Last	Organization	Title
Eric	Sklar	California Fish and Game Commission	President, Blue Ribbon Committee Chair
Sarah	Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Environmental Director
Jennifer	LaBay	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	Nonpoint Source Program Manager
Alix	Tyler	Elem Indian Colony	Environmental Director
Linda	Rosas-Bill	Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake	Environmental Director
Karola	Kennedy	Koi Nation of Northern California	Committee Representative
Eddie	Crandell	Lake County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor
Wilda	Shock	Lake County Economic Development Corporation	Committee Representative
Brenna	Sullivan	Lake County Farm Bureau	Executive Director
Harry	Lyons	Lake County Resources Conservation District	President
Jan	Coppinger	Lake County Special Districts	Administrator
Mike	Shaver	Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Environmental Director
Irenia	Quitiquit	Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Environmental Director
Terre	Logsdon	Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Environmental Director
Paul	Dodd	University of California, Davis	Associate Vice Chancellor

Public Attendants and Staff	
Name	Organization
Keith Ahart	Golden State Water Company
TeMashio Anderson	Robinson Rancheria, Socioeconomic Subcommittee member
Bernadette Austin	UC Davis Center for Regional Change (CRC)
Stacey Caico	Workforce Alliance of the North Bay, Socioeconomic Subcommittee member
Clare Cannon	UC Davis CRC
Will Evans	Clear Lake Environmental Research Center
Geoff Schladow	UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center
Scott Harter	Lake County Special Districts
Jonathan London	UC Davis CRC
Donna Mackiewicz	Clearlake Oaks Property Owners Association
Jacquelyn Parsons	Member of the public
Jessica Pyska	Cobb Area Council, Socioeconomic Subcommittee member
Anne Riggs	Member of the public
Taran Sahota	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jim Steele	Technical Subcommittee member
Sara Watterson	UC Davis CRC
Sam Magill	CSUS Consensus and Collaboration Program
Sophie Carrillo-Mandel	CSUS Consensus and Collaboration Program
Cristina Murillo-Barrick	CSUS Consensus and Collaboration Program